Doordarshan. Regarding India-based satellite channels, these are beamed from outside the country and thus, fall outside the ambit of Indian laws.

(c) To made the Cinematograph Act, 1952 more effective, a Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 18.8.92. The Bill is expected to come up for discussion in the Rajya Sabha in the current session.

SC/ST Members among Station Directors of Air and Doordarshan

1149. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of SC/ST members among Station Directors of AIR and Doordarshan separately;

(b) whether Government propose to give adequate representation to these groups of people in the higher grades; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M IBRAHIM): (a) The number of SC/ST members among Station Directors/Directors of AIR and Doordarshan are as under:—

All India Radio		Doordarshan	
SC	ST	SC	ST
14	16	5	2

(b) and (c) There is no proposal under consideration of this Ministry to change the existing Government policy in this regard.

Steps to Improve the Programmes of Doordarshan

1150. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to improve the programmes of Doordarshan to attract more and more viewers;

(b) whether any steps have also been taken to telecast Doordarshan's Programmes of all channels throughout the country particularly in Assam and other States of the North-East Region;

(c) whether any representation has been received from these States in this regard; and

(d) if so, the steps taken and reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) It is constant endeavour of Doordarshan to bring about qualitative improvement in its programmes to attract more and more viewers.

(b) to (d) The satellite derived services of Doordarshan have been made available throughout the country, including the entire North-East region, by using an appropriate dish antenna system.

New Site for Installing HPT at Dwarka in Gujarat

1151. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new site for installing the high power T.V. transmitter at Dwarka in Gujarat has been taken over by the Government;

(b) if so, whether any amount has been set apart for more infrastructure activities for this project; and

(c) if so, the amount proposed to be set apart for the year 1997-98 and the time by which it is likely to be made functional?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BRAODCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir;

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A provision of Rs. 50.00 lakh has been proposed for shifting of the HPT to the new site at Dwarka under Doordarshan's Annual Plan 1997-98. The normal lead time involved in implementation of a project of this magnitude is about 3-4 years after sanction of the scheme by the competent authority.

Free legal aid centres in Punjab

1152. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up free legal aid centres in the country particularly in the State of Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise/ District-wise; and

(c) if not, what steps are being taken by Government to bring about awareness among the people regarding their rights and enable them to get legal aid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) Under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, as amended by Legal Services Authorities (Amendment) Act, 1994, Legal Services Authorities are to be constituted at Centre, State and District level and Legal Services Committee are to be constituted at the Supreme Court, High Court and Taluk level.

The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 (excepting Chapter III which deal with the establishment of State Legal Services Authority, High Court Legal Services Committee, District Legal Services Authority and Taluk Legal Services Committee) has been enforced w.e.f. 9th Nov., 1995. The provisions of Chapter III of the said Act have so far been extended to 13 States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and National Capital Territory of Delhi who have framed the Rules. The provisions of Chapter III of the Act are likely to be extended to the States of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu soon.

In so far as the State of Punjab is concerned, the Legal Aid Centres have been set up at each District and Sub-Divisional Headquarters wherever a Judicial Officer is posted.

(c) Promotion of Legal Literacy is one of the approved strategic Legal Aid Programmes whereunder financial assistance to non-political registered social action groups is provided for organising Legal Literacy and Awareness Camps and for Training of Para Legals etc. for bringing about awareness among the people regarding their rights.

In order to bring about awareness amongst the people, Seminar/Para Legal Literacy Camps are being organised in the State of Punjab. Besides this, meetings of the Sarpanches Block-wise, had been conducted to apprise them of the Legal Aid Programmes and Free Legal Services being provided in the State of Punjab.

Voter's identity cards

1153. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for production of identity cards by the voters at the election time has been done away with;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) if not, the action taken for strict compliance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Election Commission's view is that the scheme of Photo Identity Cards needs to be continued and issue of defect free identity cards to all registered electors be completed as soon as possible. With this in view, the Commission is contemplating further improvements in the scheme.

Omission of section 77 of the RPA

1154. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Electoral Officers have demanded that section 77 of the Representation of people Act should be omitted; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) The Election Commission has made a proposal for deletion of Explanation-I under section 77(1) of the Representation of the people Act, 1951 and for simultaneous upward revision of the ceilings on election expenses and this proposal is included amongst the proposals on electoral reforms which are being discussed with political parties. The Election Commission has, however, neither demanded omission of section 77 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 nor the same is under consideration of the Government.